

Message Text

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RW MESSAGE NO. 13

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION,
ROUND FOUR: FIFTH PLENARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, 1978

REFS: A) GENEVA 1930, B) GENEVA 2527

1. SUMMARY: AT FIFTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, SOVIET DEL ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON US FEBRUARY 6 REFORMULATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT 2 (DEFINITION) AND FINESSED RESPONSE TO U.S. FEBRUARY 16 QUESTION AS TO REASON FOR CHANGE IN SOVIET DEFINITION OF NON-EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (REF B). U.S. DEL COMMENTED ON SOME OF SOVIET QUESTIONS AND MADE STATEMENT PROPOSING FOR INCLUSION IN ELEMENT SIX, CHALLENGE INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE PROPOSED BY THE U.S. IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WAS HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 22, AT SOVIET MISSION.

3. AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO U.S. FEBRUARY 6 REFORMULATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT TWO (REF A). AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF U.S. DEL) RESPONDED BRIEFLY TO TWO OF

THE SOVIET QUESTIONS. SOVIET QUESTIONS AND U.S.
RESPONSES FOLLOW BELOW. REGARDING U.S. FEBRUARY 16
EXPLANATION FOR DELETING THE WORD "WEAPON" FROM ELEMENT
TWO (SEE REF B), LIKHATCHEV SAID HE INTENDED TO HAVE
COMMENTS AT A LATER DATE.

A. QUESTION: DO THE WORDS "OR USED" REFER ONLY TO
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS OR DO THEY ALSO REFER TO EQUIPMENT
AND DEVICES?

B. QUESTION: DOESN'T U.S. REFORMULATION OF
ELEMENT TWO CONTRADICT THE ELEMENT ONE OBLIGATION OF
STATES NOT TO USE RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?

RESPONSE: FISHER POINTED OUT THAT ELEMENT ONE
PROHIBITED THE USE OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WHILE ELEMENT
TWO DEFINED THE TERM, "RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS" ON THE BASIS
OF DESIGN OR USE OF EQUIPMENT, DEVICES OR MATERIAL TO
CAUSE DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE OR INJURY.

C. QUESTION: WHY DOES THE U.S. NOW INCLUDE THE
TERM "NATURAL" IN THE PHRASE "NATURAL DECAY OF RADIO-
ACTIVE MATERIAL" WHEN IT HAD NOT INCLUDED IT IN THE U.S.
AUGUST 29 FORMULATION?

RESPONSE: U.S. DEL DEFERRED RESPONSE TO LATER DATE.

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D. QUESTION: WHY DOESN'T THE U.S. MENTION MEANS
OF DELIVERY IN ITS PROPOSED FORMULATION OF ELEMENT TWO?

RESPONSE: U.S. DEFERRED RESPONSE TO LATER DATE.

4. DURING FEBRUARY 16 MEETING, FISHER ASKED SOVIET DEL
WHY SOVIETS USED IN THEIR PRESENT ARTICLE II THE FORMU-
LATION, "WHICH ARE NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS PERFORMING BY
EXPLOSION," INSTEAD OF THEIR AUGUST FORMULATION, "OF
NON-EXPLOSIVE TYPES" (REF B). LIKHATCHEV, FINESSING THE
QUESTION SAID THAT THE SOVIET OCTOBER 7 FORMULATION WAS
BASED ON THE 1948 UN DEFINITION. FISHER STRESSED THAT
ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ARE TO BE EXCLUDED.

5. FISHER MADE BRIEF STATEMENT PROPOSING THAT ELEMENT
SIX BE REVISED TO INCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHALLENGE
ON-SITE INSPECTION, AND DESCRIBED THOSE ARRANGEMENTS
ALONG THE LINES OF RELEVANT U.S. PROPOSALS IN THE CON-
TEXT OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28. VANDEN HEUVEL

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